

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BROWN COUNTY
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Pursuant to Section 19.84 Wis. Stats., a regular meeting of the **Brown County Executive Committee** was held on Monday, July 9, 2018 in Room 200 of the Northern Building, 305 E. Walnut Street, Green Bay, Wisconsin.

Present: Chair Lund, Supervisor Hoyer, Supervisor Sieber, Supervisor Erickson, Supervisor Buckley, Supervisor Van Dyck, Supervisor Buckley

Also Present: Director of Administration Chad Weininger, Internal Auditor Dan Process, Supervisor Tran, Supervisor Lefebvre, Supervisor Kneiszel, Supervisor Borchardt, Supervisor Linssen, Deputy Executive Jeff Flynt, Corporation Counsel Dave Hemery, Assistant Parks Director Matt Kriese, Planning Director Chuck Lamine, Technology Services Director August Neverman, Veterans Senior Benefits Specialist Matthew Franklin, media, other interested parties

I. Call meeting to order.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Tom Lund at 5:30 pm.

II. Approve/modify agenda.

Motion made by Supervisor Moynihan, seconded by Supervisor Buckley to take Items 15 and 10a following Item III and approve as amended. Vote taken. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

III. Approve/modify Minutes of June 11, 2018 and Joint Exec & Admin of June 14, 2018.

Motion made by Supervisor Van Dyck, seconded by Supervisor Buckley to approve. Vote taken. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Although shown in the proper format here, Item 15 was taken at this time, followed by Item 10a.

Comments from the Public.

-Dave Boyce, 123 S. Quincy Street, Green Bay, WI

Boyce donated a book entitled *Why Marijuana Should Be Legal*. He spoke against the legalization of pot for a number of reasons and believes the best place to address this issue is at the state level.

-Laura Kiefert, 854 Krause Road, Green Bay, WI

Kiefert read a statement to the Committee, a copy of which is attached. She spoke of her personal experiences with pain and legal prescription drugs and how it relates to the issue of legalizing medical marijuana, which she is in favor of.

-Larry Peters, 1559 Belmont Road, Green Bay, WI

Peters thanked the Committee for listening to his opinion on medical cannabis. He spoke of a health condition which forced him into retirement and said he continues to struggle from pain. He tried medical cannabis in Colorado and found it helpful. He would like the Committee to consider a referendum to ask the voters for their opinion regarding cannabis legalization.

-Renee Gasch, 719 Lewis Street, De Pere, WI

Gasch is a member of the Citizen Action Northeast Wisconsin organizing cooperative. She spoke in support of putting an advisory referendum on cannabis legalization on the ballot and said cannabis prohibition is ineffective, expensive and unjust. She also stated if cannabis was legalized like alcohol is, the state would earn \$138 million dollars per year in tax revenue.

-Brenda Forbes, 2262 Hilltop Drive, Green Bay, WI

Forbes thanked the Committee for the opportunity to speak. She said this is not a radical issue and government institutions must be a reflection of the will and consensus of the people and must maintain the ability to change with the times and with new and more accurate information. A referendum would be a critical tool to gauge public opinion and she is in favor of the referendum to give the voters a chance to vote for it.

-Dan Bins, 430 Nancy Lane, #257, Pulaski, WI

Bins does not have all the facts that others do, but said the Committee asks the people to vote for them to put them on the Board and now he would like the Board to put the referendum on the ballot to let the people vote for it and have their voices heard.

-Chris Mickle, 150 Winchester Way, Green Bay, WI

Mickle said the taxes and fees that are lost compared to Colorado is about \$250 million dollars per year. What is currently on the books for any sort of relief for medical marijuana patients is very limited and people have a difficult time getting it and having it prescribed. She does not think we are doing any justice to marijuana patients.

-William Laundrie, 709 11th Avenue, Green Bay, WI

Laundrie has his own feelings on the legalization of marijuana and said it would be great to put a referendum on the ballot to give everyone a voice.

-Casey Nelson, 2217 Red Tail Glen, De Pere, WI

Nelson thanked the Committee for allowing him the opportunity to speak. He is an alderman in De Pere as well as a pharmacist and he spoke of the medicinal aspect of this and said he is in full support of adding this referendum to the November ballot. His personal and professional opinion is that the potential benefits of allowing access to marijuana greatly outweigh any drawbacks. He works at the VA and it frustrates him that veterans are not allowed to have access to marijuana as he feels depriving veterans of a safe and effective treatment is nonsensical and a disservice to those who sacrificed for our country.

-James Summers, W1013 Ranch Road, Oneida, WI

Summers cannot say any more than that has already been said. He said medical marijuana can also be used as other resources and spoke of the benefits it has for mental issues such as OCD and ADHD and memory issues. He trusts the Committee to put this to a vote and legalize marijuana.

-Jeff Nelson, 1124 Marquette Avenue, Green Bay, WI

Nelson talked about the history of marijuana prohibition and said it was basically outlawed not because of its medicinal properties but because of political reasons and for commercial profit interests. He provided an article, a copy of which is attached, that he wished to put in the record. He also spoke of this from a tax revenue perspective and feels reasonable, legal, regulated, taxed marijuana is a reasonable thing to ask for. He feels the Board owes it to the people to put this on a ballot and let people vote for it.

-Wendy Coriell, 1473 Grignon Street, Green Bay, WI

Coriell reminded the Committee the proposed cannabis referendum is advisory in nature and the Committee does not have to be in favor of legalization to vote in favor of the item. She has MS and said her health will continue to decline as it progresses. She talked about the benefits of cannabis and its compounds and the safety of it compared to other drugs and substances. She also talked about a number of other benefits to legalization. What matters in this issue are the Committee's personal views for the constituency to be heard.

-Eric Marsch, 2567 S. S. Delawne Avenue, Milwaukee, WI 53208

Marsch is from Milwaukee and represents the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws. He noted this is an advisory referendum and it is very important for the people to have their say. Smoking some weed at night is no different than drinking a beer and he knows of very productive people that do it. He also talked about the allegations of the gateway aspect of marijuana.

-Rachael Steidl, 3400 N. Gordon Place, Milwaukee, WI

Steidl is a visitor to Brown County and said the Committee needs to look at this issue as it is becoming more prevalent throughout the state. People do not want to uphold marijuana prohibition because it is about racist stereotypes and being mis-educated. She does not feel something that can be legalized and regulated that could generate tax money and medicate the sick is something that should be shunned.

-Joel Diny, 221 Huth Street, #215, Green Bay, WI

Diny said the people of Brown County have the absolute right to have the freedom to have their voices heard on this referendum and no Supervisor has the right to say that the taxpayers' voices do not matter or prevent them from having the right to create and vote on a referendum. He said this is a First Amendment issue, not a marijuana issue.

-Cassandra Erickson, 1340 Merrill Street, De Pere, WI 54115

Erickson is the founder of the local Mermaids Without Borders which supports various community projects and green initiatives. She spoke about a bipartisan bill that would no longer classify hemp as a controlled substance and all federal barriers to it would be removed creating an opportunity to stabilize a renewable resource to the US. She is in support of adding the advisory referendum to the November ballot.

-Katie Mommaerts, 1442 Wiesner Street, Green Bay, WI

Mommaerts said she sent an e-mail to County Board members, but has only received three responses, none of which were from her own Supervisor. She asked the Board to read her e-mail and let her know that they have done so. She spoke of experiences in her life which were traumatic and have resulted in PTSD. This is not about advocating for substance abuse; it is about advocating for the pursuit of happiness which includes the ability to cope. She is in favor of the referendum so the residents can have their voices heard.

-Erik Bertard, 810 Lime Kiln Road, #6, Green Bay, WI

Bertard said he has been using marijuana regularly since he was in college 30 years ago. He talked about circumstances where he had to stop using it for periods of time and indicated he did not have any problems quitting whatsoever. He also spoke about a severe injury he sustained and how marijuana helps him cope with associated problems. The referendum is about letting people have their voices heard and he is in favor of it.

-John Fenner, 1370 Mesa Drive, Green Bay, WI

Fenner said he does not have any dog in this fight but he has a fight with letting the people vote and making a fair representation of the citizens of Brown County. He referenced comments made by a Supervisor following the last County Board meeting about his elected official in District 21. He found the comments offensive and insulting and did not like it and hoped similar comments would not be made in the future. He asked the Committee to let the people, citizens and taxpayers vote on this.

-John (inaudible), 4479 Shawano Avenue, Mill Center, WI

John says he likes to have a cold beer when he gets home from work but has coworkers who like to spark up a joint instead. That is not his business and he feels we should have a discussion about it and this referendum should be on the ballot because people have a right to be heard.

-Nick DeLeon, 1386 Kingston Terrace, #6, Green Bay, WI

DeLeon is a minister and also a former green party candidate for governor. He referenced some studies he saw on the Drug and Alcohol Dependence website that said that opioid dependency has dropped in states that have legalized medical marijuana and opioid deaths and overdoses have also decreased. He spoke of the benefits of marijuana on a number of medical conditions.

-Joseph Prosser, 2577 Wildflower Road, Green Bay, WI

Prosser spoke in favor of adding the advisory referendum to the November ballot to get the public's opinion out there as soon as possible.

-Scott Dempsey, 441 South Quincy Street, #108, Green Bay, WI

Dempsey wanted to bring the Committee's attention to a group called LEAP (Law Enforcement Action Partnership) who advocates for solutions for criminal justice issues and said this organization advocates for less harsh punishment. He also spoke of his mother's cancer and how marijuana may help her.

-Alissa Leeman, 904 N. Chestnut Street, Green Bay, WI

Leeman spoke of personal experiences with a family member with alcoholism as well as friends who have died due to prescription drug use. She feels there is very little choice for some of these people. She feels everyone should have the right to vote on the referendum.

1. Review Minutes of: None.

Legal Bills

2. Review and Possible Action on Legal Bills to be paid.

Motion made by Supervisor Hoyer, seconded by Supervisor Buckley to pay. Vote taken. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Communications

3. Communication from Supervisors Tran and Hoyer re: We make the following request for Corporation Counsel to draft a county-wide Advisory Referendum regarding the legislation of the production distribution and sale of marijuana, and allowing tax revenues to mitigate the County costs of state unfunded mandates. It is our intention to have the County Board place this referenda (to be voted upon by the citizens of Brown County) on the November 6th General Election. *Referred from June County Board.*

Supervisor Tran said as the Committee just heard under comments from the public, the citizens want to have their voices heard and that is why she brought this communication forward. She provided a handout, a copy of which is attached and noted this is not a legalization process; it is a public opinion process allowing the state to gauge where the people in Wisconsin are at on the issue. Supervisors are elected officials, but citizens are the bosses and denying them to vote on this is denying them their constitutional right. A referendum would also send a message to the state legislature in November and if we have a new legislature and governor, this could possibly pass. With the amount of mandates put on counties with little or no funding, Brown County is almost at the levy limits and legalizing marijuana would bring in tax dollars that could help with programs the county is currently unable to fund. This referendum would be a message to the state and she asked the citizens to be able to have a voice.

As the co-sponsor of the communication, Supervisor Hoyer feels it is a good idea to have the referendum on the ballot in November. He appreciated all of the speakers who came forward to share their stories because he realizes it is not easy. He would like the referendum on the ballot to find out where we are at as an entire community. The opinions of the Board are important, but he questions if they are more important than the opinions of the citizens. He feels legalizing marijuana would result in a far better system than the system of alcohol or other drugs. From a medical perspective and a recreational perspective, he put his name on this to see where the public is at. Hoyer and Tran are hoping for a motion to send this to Corporation Counsel to draft something similar to what was in the agenda packet and bring it back to the Board for approval so it would be done in time for the November ballot.

Tran said the question they would like on the November ballot would be as follows: Should the State of Wisconsin legalize cannabis use for adults 21 years of age or older and provide all the tax revenues collected to counties for the following: unfunded state mandates, crime prevention and recidivism programs, opioid and mental health services, veteran services, tax relief or other unfunded obligations.

Motion made by Supervisor Hoyer, seconded by Supervisor Sieber to send to Corporation Counsel to revise resolution appropriately with correct legalese for referendum. *See friendly amendment and final vote below.*

Supervisor Erickson said he has a soft spot for those with medical issues. He has made some contacts with medical professionals who said some very good things can be done with this, but they said these things have to be controlled in the proper way, through a physician. They seem to be in full support of oils and pills and feel they can do wonders with that. He also asked about recreational smoking but the professionals he spoke with were not in favor of that. He also talked to some employers who indicated that applicants have to take a drug test prior to being hired and this could affect that. At this point, when the crowd made derogatory comments, Erickson said he listened to them for a very long time without being disrespectful and he asked them to now be respectful and listen to the Committee.

Erickson said he will support the medical aspect of this as directed by the medical community for oils and pills controlled by a physician and pharmacist. He will not support it for recreational reasons. He referred to a comment made about veterans and said there should be no expectation to get prescribed marijuana through the Vets Clinic because that is a federal agency and it is federally against the law. He would like the referendum to have an option for people to vote for supporting this for medical reasons and another option to support it for recreational reasons.

Erickson noted most people who spoke this evening wanted legalization for medical reasons. He said all of what was discussed at this meeting will be rehashed at the County Board meeting next week, and he would ask for another perspective from the Sheriff and Drug Task Force. He would like no stones unturned and would like to hear opinions from others.

Supervisor Moynihan said he does not have an issue with the medicinal aspect of this by prescription, but he feels the referendum question requested is premature and will not have the desired effect. He said this is a state issue and there is no pending legislation waiting for hearing. He compared this to the dark store referendum and said the difference is that there is pending legislation with regard to the dark store issue and this has been at the forefront for quite some time. Moynihan continued that those who want to realize legalization on this issue would be better served by forming a coalition with boots on the ground garnering the necessary signatures to place on a future ballot. As written, he cannot support this at this time.

Supervisor Sieber said regardless of whether this goes through or not, it is only a matter of time before cannabis is legal in the state. He does not believe the personal feelings of Supervisors on this should be coming into play. The question is whether or not the people want to have a say in cannabis legalization in the state. He agreed with placing two questions on the ballot as Erickson suggested; one for medicinal purposes and one for recreational purposes. He noted this issue is going to be on the ballot in Milwaukee, Dane and Rock counties as well as several other counties and he feels the citizens of Brown County should also have the opportunity to have their voices heard. He is fully in support of having the referendum on the ballot in November.

Supervisor Van Dyck informed his initial intention was to vote against this, however, he will now abstain. He does take a little bit of an issue with references made to First Amendment rights and said everyone on the County Board was elected to do county business, not state or federal business. This is a state issue and if people want a referendum, it is on there by having a choice to make when voting for a state representative and state senator. If someone wants this and they are in support of it and it is their defining issue, they can vote democratic because then they will get what they want. If this is someone's defining issue, it makes no sense to vote for this referendum but then vote republican. He referenced a news article that indicated marijuana legalization is not going to become an issue in Wisconsin as long as the republicans have control of the state senate and state legislature. Citizens have the right to vote in November and have their voices heard. Van Dyck wanted to make it clear that his opinion does not have anything to do with marijuana. He reiterated the Board is elected to deal with county issues and things like this as well as abortion, gun control and immigration are state and federal issues and people have the right to vote on those issues every time there is an election.

Supervisor Buckley said given his background in the drug unit for many, many years, he has dealt with a lot of issues with drugs. He has tried to look at this objectively by looking at the states that have legalized marijuana and from the information he has so far, it is not as rosy of a picture as it is put out to be. There are a lot of statistics that say differently than what has been stated tonight. He feels the Board needs more education and said there were not a lot of facts and figures backed up by data at this meeting. He disagreed with the proposed wording of the resolution. He can see the point of legalizing marijuana for medicinal reasons, but if it is going to be approved for medical reasons it has to be done very carefully and prescribed by a doctor and distributed by a pharmacist. We cannot just open it up and allow people to self-medicate themselves. He also questions if it really is the miracle drug everyone here feels it will be. He agrees with Van Dyck in that this is not a county issue, it is a state and federal issue. Buckley intends to abstain this evening and noted this will come up again before the Board at the next meeting.

With regard to education, Tran encouraged Supervisors to look at the states that have legalized this and see the laws and procedures that have to be followed to get marijuana for medicinal purpose. Buckley responded that he has been in Colorado and has seen the process firsthand. He is trying to look at this objectively, but there are other facts and figures that need to be taken into consideration.

Hoyer feels part of the county's business is representing the county on this issue. He said in Colorado, before this went to a referendum, there were two members of the legislature willing to go on record in support of it. Because of all of the different opinions and strong feelings, it is not something that people are willing to go out on a limb for. In this case, he sees an opportunity to hear the voices of our community and he feels that no matter what the outcome of the referendum would be, the message will be sent to the state. Because we have not seen action on this in

Madison, Hoyer feels having this referendum on the ballot would be Brown County's way to do our part to let them know that this is an issue that is important to talk about and educate about.

Supervisor Lefebvre said that Colorado has found they need to change the rulings and legislation on marijuana because there was someone who died from over consuming marijuana. People have to be careful with this. She also recalled seeing on the national news that people are becoming allergic to it from over consuming marijuana. She does not like the way the referendum is written and feels it should be written to apply to only medical marijuana under doctor's supervision. She continued that there are some people who could absolutely benefit from marijuana, but it will not cure everybody's ills. She talked about MS and said that everyone is different; some progress fast and die, but others live with it for a long time. She said it is important that people not self-medicate and talked about her own health issues and said she would not have used marijuana to help her; she exercised which helped a lot. She reiterated we have to be very careful with this. She does not mind a referendum because there are a number of people here who are requesting it. Lefebvre also feels a referendum would send a message to the state.

Sieber feels the Committee is missing the point. This is asking the people how they feel about it. He noted the Board has sent several resolutions to the state which really do not have any effect. This would be letting the state know what the will of the people is. The personal opinions of the Supervisors do not matter. There are citizens before us asking for their voices to be heard. We represent the people and when they want to be heard, we need to let them speak. Sieber asked the Committee to put their personal opinions aside and agreed that adding a question regarding medical purposes as well as full legalization is appropriate.

Chair Lund said he will not vote for full legalization. He feels there are a lot of people who would vote for legalization for medicinal purposes but not full legalization.

Friendly amendment made by Supervisor Sieber, seconded by Supervisor Moynihan to add second referendum question related to legalizing medical cannabis to the original motion to revise resolution appropriately with correct legalese for referendum. Vote taken. Ayes: Hoyer, Sieber, Lund Nay: Moynihan, Buckley Abstain: Van Dyck, Erickson MOTION CARRIED 3 to 2

4. **Communication from Supervisor Lefebvre re: I am asking that the invocation be completely removed from our County meetings. *Referred from June County Board.***

Lefebvre recalled the discussion at the last full Board meeting regarding the invocation and she now feels it should be eliminated from the agenda completely because the Board is starting to argue about it. She was elected to conduct county business and she said she has been talking to people about this and she got a lot of feedback that the invocation should be eliminated or changed to a moment of silence. She said the other idea, if the Board feels we need an invocation, is to represent the community by having a representative of a different religion say the invocation on a rotating basis.

Lund said this was taken care of and the invocation will continue through the term of this Board per the vote at the last Board meeting.

Motion made by Supervisor Moynihan, seconded by Supervisor Erickson to receive and place on file. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Resolutions, Ordinances

5. **Resolution to Ratify the Brown County Sheriff's Department Supervisory Employees Labor Association 2017-2019 Labor Agreement.**

Corporation Counsel Dave Hemery informed that the copy of the document in the agenda packet still had the old term. The effective date of this would be from January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2019. This will be corrected and the correct term will be reflected on the document presented at the full Board meeting.

Motion made by Supervisor Erickson, seconded by Supervisor Buckley to approve. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6. **Resolution re: Change in Table of Organization for the Technology Services Department Enterprise Web and Social Media Specialist.**

Erickson said in reading this resolution, there is language that says the position would manage closed captioning, if approved. He questions creating a \$102,000 job when some of the description is if approved. He does not want to vote on futuristic things that may never happen so he will not support this tonight.

Sieber said this position was discussed at Administration Committee for at least a year and came out of a study group created to try to make improvements to the county website. He voted to move this forward so Supervisor Schadewald could have a vote on this issue because he was very much in support of it and led the charge on it and he noted that there are a number of other duties included in the position besides managing the closed captioning. Sieber said he would be much more in favor of talking about this at budget time.

Van Dyck agreed with Sieber in that he would also like this handled at budget time. He does not have a problem with the position in and of itself, but he does have a problem dealing with it in the middle of the year. He feels this should fall into the same pot as the rest of the items that will have to be addressed at budget time.

Technology Services Director August Neverman wanted to be sure the Committee knows that this was a result of the Board's request; he did not bring it forward on this own.

Lund added that when the committee met on this, they talked about adding some sort of revenue through advertising or something similar so at budget time there should be figures available if there would be offsetting revenue.

Neverman said he supports the position and feels that long-term it will be necessary, but he has not put it in his budget yet. From a long-term perspective he would like to have the website in place and answers regarding the closed captioning because right now these things are still up in the air and this is a job description based on prognostication. Neverman wants the person who eventually gets this job to have a very clear role but at this time he does not have a clear definition for it because of the number of unknowns. It is his personal recommendation to wait until the next budget cycle.

Hoyer said he is not going to just vote for something just to make it happen. He gets frustrated because these cans have been kicked way down the road and he has been holding his fist in the air about the website forever. He understands they are working on it, but if direction is needed from the Board, the Board needs to embrace it and move forward by doing whatever they have to do. He does not necessarily feel creating a mystery position and filling it is the best way, but we need to take note of our responsibility to the public for transparency of the meetings, closed captioning and the website.

Linssen said trying to put positions together does not make sense. He is aware of the market value for someone who does closed captioning and social media type things and the financials do not make sense to have somebody with technical qualities for the website doing that in their spare time. He does not want to belittle this, but the technical skills are things a lot of teenagers can do so we do not need someone with high level website development when we are talking about closed captioning. He feels current Board staff could encompass many of the things that are in the description and he also feels that the website work is something that perhaps should be contracted. He feels the closed captioning should be split off from the job description, but he does not want to see this die because the closed captioning is important and is something that should not wait until budget time. He does not support the position as written but would like to go back and see if it could be done in a way that makes more sense.

Moynihan questioned if this position would create a tool that when an agenda is presented, the viewer could click on it and go right to the video. Neverman said he has a software vendor coming in in August that will talk about software that can do that, but it would not be inexpensive. Van Dyck asked the Board Chair to have the software presentation made to the full Board so everyone hears the same thing and can see what the program can do so Supervisors can make an intelligent decision. To put the program in place and then eliminate Board staff typing minutes is the only thing that would make sense but he does not think the Supervisors will get that message if they do not see what can be done.

Buckley feels the current resolution before us should be received and placed on file and when Neverman knows what he needs to put in the budget, it can go through the proper Committee and process.

Motion made by Supervisor Buckley, seconded by Supervisor Erickson to receive and place on file. Vote taken.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

7. **Resolution for all Regularly Scheduled Standing Committees to Meet on or Between Mondays and Thursdays, and to Begin their Meetings on or Between 5:00 PM and 7:30 PM, starting with the Next Term of the County Board.**

Linssen requested this be amended to take effect next calendar year rather than next term of the Board. He feels that is sufficient time for Committees to make appropriate arrangements.

Buckley said the Chairman of a Committee and the Committee can decide the date and time of meetings. He noted that Public Safety has changed their meetings from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm, but there has not been any uptick in attendance at the meetings. He feels it should still be left up to the Committee and the Chair to set a meeting time. In the past, when there was a request to have a later meeting, the request has been honored and Buckley feels this resolution is a little too much monitoring of the Committees.

Supervisor Borchardt spoke in favor of this resolution because her job sometimes precludes her from being available for 4:00 pm unless she takes the day off. She feels 5:00 pm is an appropriate time for a meeting. She likes to attend as many meetings as possible so she can keep her constituents advised of what is going on.

Motion made by Supervisor Sieber, seconded by Supervisor Hoyer to approve. Vote taken. Ayes: Lund, Moynihan, Hoyer, Sieber, Van Dyck Nay: Erickson, Buckley. MOTION CARRIED 5 to 2

8. **Resolution Directing County Board Staff to Retain Audio Recordings of Meetings for Seven Years.**

Motion made by Supervisor Sieber, seconded by Supervisor Hoyer to approve. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9. **An Ordinance to Amend Section 2.13 (Meetings, Agendas) by Creating Subsection 2.13(7) (RE Mileage Reimbursement) in Chapter 2 of the Brown County Code of Ordinances.**

Moynihan said the Chapter currently does not reflect a lot and this is to clean it up. It is geared more towards Supervisors on the outskirts of the County. Hemery said this applies to standing Committee meetings and Board meetings. There is a separate provision that addresses out of county travel.

Sieber asked if this is a new benefit or if it had already been in place. It was said that mileage reimbursement was always in effect. State statutes say Supervisors can be reimbursed for up to 30 County Board or Committee meetings per year. Moynihan said this is basically a housekeeping issue to make the ordinance less vague.

Buckley noted Supervisors already get paid and he does not feel they need mileage reimbursement on top of that. When a Supervisor takes the position, they know what it entails and that they have to get to the job. He would rather not see them be reimbursed unless it is for out of county travel approved by the Chair. He said he would rather see some of the employees who have come before the Board to talk about mileage in the past be addressed.

Van Dyck asked if there is anything that would prevent someone from putting in mileage from a prior period. Hemery responded there is not anything specific that says requests need to be made within a certain period, but there are legal arguments that can be made as to the reasonableness and timeliness of the request. Van Dyck will not vote for this. He understands this is trying to clarify something that is in the code, but he feels that this opens us up because if the state changes the rules then we have to amend our resolution to match. If it's on the books he feels the ordinance should just be given to whoever has to do the reimbursement, but he feels this draws attention to it. He thinks it is ridiculous to be reimbursed for mileage when we are already getting paid for the job.

Motion made by Supervisor Moynihan, seconded by Supervisor Lund to approve. Vote taken. Ayes: Moynihan, Lund, Hoyer, Erickson Nay: Buckley, Van Dyck, Sieber. MOTION CARRIED 4 to 3

10. An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 2 (County Board of Supervisors) of the Brown County Code of Ordinances by Creating Section 2.17 (RE County Email Use).

Neverman said this came about because he received a request from a Supervisor to have their county e-mail forwarded to their personal e-mail address. This is something that is not done by anyone in the County for security reasons and confidentiality. He requested something from the Board so TS is not just telling Supervisors they cannot not do this without it being recorded somewhere.

Motion made by Supervisor Van Dyck, seconded by Supervisor Erickson to approve. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- *10a. Resolution to Approve and Accept the Donation of a .772 Acre Parcel of Land within the Village of Howard Adjacent to the Barkhausen Waterfowl Preserve.

Motion made by Supervisor Van Dyck, seconded by Supervisor Sieber to approve. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Internal Auditor

11. Board of Supervisors Budget Status Reports (Unaudited) – May 2018.

Motion made by Supervisor Moynihan, seconded by Supervisor Hoyer to receive and place on file. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

12. Status Update: June 1 – June 30, 2018.

Internal Auditor Dan Process referred to the last page of his report, Item 12A, related to travel and training which was asked about at the last meeting. He has prepared a chart of what was budgeted and what has been utilized over the last few years.

Motion made by Supervisor Hoyer, seconded by Supervisor Sieber to receive and place on file. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- a) Discussion: Veterans' Emergency Assistance – Gift Cards Report.

Process said the Veterans Department is addressing the issues identified and are taking the appropriate steps. A handout was provided regarding this, a copy of which is attached.

Motion made by Supervisor Moynihan, seconded by Supervisor Erickson to receive and place on file. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Human Resources

13. HR Director's Report.

Motion made by Supervisor Erickson, seconded by Supervisor Sieber to receive and place on file. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Corporation Counsel

14. Corporation Counsel Budget Status Financial Report.

Motion made by Supervisor Hoyer, seconded by Supervisor Van Dyck to receive and place on file. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

15. Redistricting Information.

Hemery referenced the documents contained in the agenda packet entitled *Guidelines for Adjusting Municipal Wards Following the 2020 Federal Census* which is put out by the Wisconsin Legislative Reference Bureau. This document, as well as the document he provided previously in March, provide a complete overlook of the redistricting process. Redistricting is driven by statutes and procedures set by the state and Hemery said Planning Director Chuck Lamine can speak further to the redistricting process which is very complicated and intricate. Lund said Supervisors need to go along with the wards and municipalities and Hemery agreed and added that that villages and municipalities develop their wards and then provide those to the county who draws the maps. The timeline for this process is rather tight with about 60 days between steps.

Motion made by Supervisor Sieber, seconded by Supervisor Moynihan to open the floor to allow interested parties to speak. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

-Linda Van Beek, 205 W. Mission Road, Green Bay, WI

Van Beek said the current system of drawing redistricting maps at the state level is very flawed and whatever political party that is in power at the time draws the maps to provide an unfair advantage to the very politicians who are drawing the maps. The consequences are undemocratic and costly to the taxpayers. She spoke in favor of a non-partisan approach to the maps and asked for creation of a citizen board to participate in the redistricting process.

-Barbara Brown, 401 Arrowhead Drive, Allouez, WI

Brown said the Committee should be happy to see the participation of the citizens in their districts. The League of Women Voters and the citizens and community leaders that are here are asking for creation of an independent citizen commission designed to set guidelines for redistricting which would follow each 10 year census. She would like this done in a timely manner so it can be fully implemented for 2020. Constituents want a fair and clear process as well as having a voice in the procedures.

-Anneliese Waggoner, 121 Greene Avenue, Allouez, WI

Waggoner pointed out they are not asking to circumvent anything that is now in the statutes. She asked the Committee for their approval for developing an independent citizen commission to set guidelines for the redistricting process following the 2020 census. They are not asking the commission to replace the authority of the County Board in the final approval of the maps. Waggoner submitted a petition signed by a number of citizens who are in favor of this commission, a copy of which is attached.

Motion made by Supervisor Erickson, seconded by Supervisor Buckley to return to regular order of business. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Planning Director Chuck Lamine said the authority on redistricting lies with the County Board. It is the Board's prerogative to vary from what has been done in the past. Historically Planning has assisted in developing the map and they look at it as purely a mathematical exercise. Planning works at the discretion and direction of the County Board. The first step in the process is waiting for the census to be done. The data will start rolling in in the spring of 2021 and the State has a tight timeline for the process after that. The State has developed mapping software they have distributed to the counties and the County Board could use that if they choose, either with or without assistance from Planning.

Lamine continued that in the past the Executive Committee has served as the guiding committee. Planning starts by looking at the existing map and showing what the standard deviation is. It is important to be able to justify that there is a problem with the existing map, which is going to happen because there is going to be growth in certain areas of the county. Then Planning finds out from the Board how many variations they want for things like numbers of persons serving on the County Board. They typically then assign two staff members to this and try to hit the standard deviation target as well as possible and come up with a map that meets the statutory requirements. It is a technical process which sounds easier than it is. Lamine reiterated that Planning recognizes that the authority is with the County Board and that they are an extension of them to get the map done. The timeline is tight and they work hard to meet the deadlines.

Moynihan said there are protocols from the state that drive the mapping. Lamine agreed and said it comes down to the concept of equal representation of the districts to be as close as possible in population and there are also considerations of respecting the political boundaries. There are some cases where the boundaries cross into different communities and the further out you get into the rural areas, the harder it gets. Last time they recognized where the incumbents lived and efforts were made to not have incumbents running against each other, but those things complicate the efforts.

Hoyer asked if Lamine has heard of any communities that incorporate citizen participation in the process and whether it complicates the process or serves a purpose. Lamine said although he is not that up to speed on this, he thought Dane and Milwaukee counties are looking at that for the first time for the next census. In terms of public input, there are requirements for public hearings during the process.

Sieber said the state statutes are pretty specific in the requirements, but asked if efforts are made to find out and follow best practices. For example, he is not in favor of drawing the lines to protect incumbents. He feels best practice would probably be to draw the lines as best as they can be and if incumbents end up running against each other, so be it. Lamine said Planning respects the decision of the County Board and acts as the technicians in this process; Planning is not advocating for anything in the process and they will certainly guide the Board towards the law in establishing the map.

In terms of suggestions, Lamine offered that one might be that if the Board is going to do the process themselves, as painful as it would be, he would suggest that the Committee go through the map creation process during a public meeting as this would eliminate any doubt. He says as the maps are worked on, you learn to understand and respect the challenges. Every time a minor tweak is made, the result is a variation of the target that has been set for standard deviation. It is not an easy process and this would be one way of making it a very public process. Lamine said another option would be that direction be given during the public meeting, and then Planning staff work at it and then come back to the next meeting with the map but nobody would see the map in between which would force this to be a public process.

Sieber asked if there was any effort in the past to create a document that would say protecting incumbents was good because it would provide longevity to the Board or it is bad because the maps are not being drawn as they should be and other best practices. Lamine said the decision on the incumbents last time was made during the public meeting. Sieber also asked if there were more or less calls during the redistricting process to the Planning Department by Supervisors than they normally receive. Lamine said there is a lot of interest in the process by Supervisors.

Sieber referenced language in the document in the agenda packet regarding provisions that need to be made for ethnic populations and asked if this was brought up during the last redistricting process. Lamine said the diversity in the community probably was not that great during the last process and he does not recall it being a significant challenge. That is something that will vary and that is why the law requires the redistricting be done every ten years. As census information comes in, that is something that will be taken into consideration and the Board will have to work through it. Sieber asked who the enforcer would be if an issue was raised as to this issue; if it would be the state or a citizen. Hemery said it would have to be challenged by a citizen.

Erickson informed the wards are all determined by the municipalities, so when the county puts the maps together, according to the information in the agenda packet, all the county is doing is putting the districts together to come out with equal numbers. Lund said we cannot have two supervisors in the same ward, so if the wards are put out in a certain way, the county has to draw the lines to make sure they reflect the wards in the communities that are going to be voted. Lamine added that his recollection is that they develop the supervisory districts and when it looks like the map is getting close to being adoptable by the Board, they share the map with the municipalities who may then have to adjust their wards.

Lefebvre said she is in support of a citizen committee to help in this process. She noted she is a city alder as well as a County Supervisor and the wards do not match any more. She does not understand why they used to match, but they no longer do. Lund said they do not match because the population has shifted from the city to the outlying areas. The only way to make them match would be to increase the Board to 28 supervisors and he noted at one time there were

45 Supervisors. Each district has to be as close as possible in the same number of voters per district. Lefebvre said it becomes confusing for voters when things do not match.

Buckley agreed with Lefebvre in that it does create confusion for citizens when things do not match. He said that is an example of how independent the process is because from a city standpoint, it hurts those who were on the council and Board at the same time when the city wards changed. The work to do the redistricting is not something that happens in a day; there is a lot of work and it is a long process, but the numbers are the numbers and they have to be followed. Lamine added that the percentage of the population of Brown County that is within the City of Green Bay is going down and that comes into effect in the mapping process.

Van Dyck said a lot of the points being raised tonight are in relationship to the issues at the state and federal level. It seems like at the local level the redistricting process has been fairly transparent. He said there were some considerations given last time to incumbency which resulted in a few odd shaped districts. He is in favor of public participation, but he is not sure setting up a whole separate committee to do this is the answer. He is not sure there is a huge difference between what the public may want and what the process is that is already in place. It is his position that to have a separate committee in place to set criteria that the Board ultimately has to make the decision on to agree or disagree with the recommendations seems to be after the fact. In addition, he does not think it is the right process to produce maps and then have the public come forward and comment on them because that seems after the fact. He feels it may be better to get the public participation on the front end by having a hearing to establish the criteria that is going to be used so we can all come to an agreement before the process starts. Van Dyck understands the challenges of the process but a lot of those are based on the boundaries of the communities and that would be one of the criteria that should be decided. He is in support of community involvement, but not really in support of setting up a whole committee because he feels that separates things and decisions do not get made together, but he does support having a public hearing on the front end of the process so the Board can make decisions on the criteria that is set before the mapping process begins.

Motion made by Supervisor Moynihan, seconded by Supervisor Sieber to suspend the rules to allow interested parties to speak. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

-Tom Joynt, 2460 Deer Path Drive, Green Bay, WI

Joynt informed he was the Green Bay School Superintendent in the 1990s. It is his opinion from past experience that citizen committees are really quite good when it comes to making critical decisions. He said public hearings are often random thoughts and very often uninformed opinions. A committee, in turn, can study and look at the alternatives and give the best input possible. He urged the Committee to give serious consideration to approving a special involvement citizen committee. He also noted the County is becoming much more diverse and this also has to be looked at.

-Hector Rodriguez, 1460 Waterford Drive, Green Bay, WI

Rodriguez thanked the Committee for listening to the speakers on this issue as it is an important part of the process. With regard to the demographics discussed earlier, he said integrating the Hispanic and other minority groups into this process is very, very important for the healthy development of Green Bay. He said that people have shared the importance of democracy and questioned what happens if the issue is not fixed. People who feel they are not being listened to results in resentment and the community starts going in different directions. The suggestion of having citizens are part of the solution is great. He also said he was energized by hearing that there are plans in the statutes for minorities to be part of the process. In order to have a healthy Green Bay, everyone needs to be listened to. He said that other Hispanic people feel that they are not part of the community and they want to be included.

-Anneliese Waggoner, 121 Greene Avenue, Allouez, WI (second time)

Waggoner recognizes the timeline in the redistricting process is tight after the census and wanted to clarify that their idea of a committee would be that the committee would be looking at things before the census so the items would be available to the Planning Department or whoever is going to be drawing the maps right after the census.

Motion made by Supervisor Moynihan, seconded by Supervisor Buckley to return to regular order of business. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Motion made by Supervisor Moynihan to receive and place on file. *Motion withdrawn.*

Sieber said he can work on this and bring it back in 30 days. Van Dyck asked what Sieber would be working on and what he hopes to accomplish in the next 30 days. He said he likes the idea of citizen input, but feels it is a little naïve in expecting that the selection of the group is not going to be in and of itself political so it's not just a matter of saying let's create a citizen group. He feels that most people who do not have an opinion on this matter are not coming forward to participate so he questions what Sieber will bring back and if it will include some type of process by which the committee will be selected. Sieber said he hoped to see who is going to be on the committee included in the resolution and he said that he would be happy to work with Van Dyck on this and would also be happy to work with any community groups who would like to be part of the committee.

Buckley noted it will be the next County Board that makes the decision on the maps and setting policy for the next Board to follow is going against what has typically been done in the past. Sieber responded that some of the current Supervisors may run again while others may not, so for this Board to set unbiased guidelines is important and the next Board can change them if they see fit but he feels the new Board would owe the public an explanation of why the previous Board's actions are wrong and why they change them and he feels this Board is the perfect Board to carry out this task as it will be as unbiased as possible.

Van Dyck asked if the intent is to create a committee to set criteria or create a committee that is going to establish maps. Sieber said it would be up to the Board to decide that. Creating the commission is a step in the right direction. It would be his preference that the group creates the maps and then the Board can vote yes or no until the maps are approved. He feels this would take a lot of the politics out of the process and noted it is the citizens that would have to challenge these maps and he feels it is important to give them a say. He said the last redistricting process went over the deadline, so having the citizen group create the maps or create the guidelines will help ensure that the deadlines will be met and the new Board will not have to start off with this right away; they can just go with the guidelines that are set if they approve.

Motion made by Supervisor Sieber, seconded by Supervisor Hoyer to draft a resolution to create a citizen commission to lead the redistricting effort in 2020. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

16. Corporation Counsel's Oral Report.

Hemery informed the BCTA lawsuit is continuing. Brown County has filed their answer and we are currently awaiting an answer from the Department of Revenue. He noted Judge Walsh had been assigned to the case but BCTA requested a substitution of judge. Hemery has not received notice of who has been assigned yet. Each party is entitled to one substitution request. Hemery hopes to have a hearing date assigned within the next three months.

Motion made by Supervisor Moynihan, seconded by Supervisor Buckley to receive and place on file. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Department of Administration

17. Director of Administration's Report.

Director of Administration Chad Weininger said the budget process is continuing and the departments have received their levy targets. The budget will be tight as the County is at the levy limits.

Motion made by Supervisor Sieber, seconded by Supervisor Buckley to receive and place on file. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

County Executive

18. County Executive's Report.

No report; no action taken.

Other

19. Such other matters as authorized by law.

Moynihan asked Hemery to work on the referendum questions as soon as he is able to and get it out there. Hemery said he will meet with Tran tomorrow and get going on it.

20. Adjourn.

Motion made by Supervisor Buckley, seconded by Supervisor Hoyer to adjourn at 9:35 pm. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Respectfully submitted,

Therese Giannunzio
Administrative Specialist

Statement to Brown County Board Executive Committee
Opioids vs. Medical Cannabis

Laura Kiefert
854 Krause Road
Green Bay, WI 54313
920-569-9049

My name is Laura Kiefert. My husband and I own property at 854 Krause Road, where we live next door to our son, his wife, and three of our grandchildren.

I appreciate the opportunity of speaking with you today about my personal experience with drugs. Legal prescription drugs, that is.

In 1998 after suffering a rapid onset of severe pain, I was diagnosed with diabetic peripheral neuropathy. It felt like my feet were constantly burning in scalding water. So far, that sensation has spread to my ankles, calves, hands and forearms.

Several neurologists confirmed the diagnosis by performing a myriad of diagnostic tests. All confirmed the diagnosis, agreed that finding an effective treatment was often elusive, confirmed the condition was progressive, and advised me to not expect the condition would ever improve.

At the beginning, I was prescribed anti-epileptic medications, the only drugs approved at that time to treat neuropathy. Then, those medications were combined with anti-depressants, which had shown to be effective with some patients suffering from neuropathic ailments. Along with those, I was prescribed low doses of opioids like Percocet and Vicodin.

In addition, I tried topical ointments, supplements, chiropractic, acupuncture, bio-feedback, electric stimulation, spinal injections, massage and relaxation, all efforts to ease my pain and slow the progression. None proved very beneficial.

My diagnosis coincided with Perdue Pharma launching an extensive marketing campaign promoting their so-called wonder drug, OxyContin, aimed at assuring physicians that it was safe and non-addictive when used for pain control.

It was during that time I received my first prescription for OxyContin and it was the start of what we now refer to as the Opioid Crisis.

OxyContin was originally developed to be an effective pain reliever. And it was. Pain sufferers like me weren't looking to get high. We were looking for a medication to ease our pain.

As doctors wrote millions of prescriptions, the market became totally saturated with OxyContin, patients began sharing or selling their pills, people learned how to crush the tablets and snort or inject the powder. It wasn't long before people were stealing it to get high and the drug became readily available on the black market.

By 2002, when I was just 47 years old, I was no longer able to work because of the neuropathy pain, and unable to drive due to the deterioration of my vision.

Periodically, over the next 13 years, the type of opioids varied and dosages were increased until I was taking maximum dosages of several at the same time. Along the way the numerous drugs I took

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caused serious side effects including weight gain, drowsiness, dizziness and swelling, heart, respiratory, and gastrointestinal problems, hypertension, itchy skin, dry mouth, nausea and infection.

Make no mistake, opioids relieved my pain, however between the years, 2010 to 2015, I was basically unable to function and rarely got out of bed.

For all intents and purposes during those years, I lost my life. I missed out on everything - loving moments with my husband, family and friends, birthdays and holidays, ball games, concerts and recitals, and especially all the little things a grandmother enjoys and cherishes while watching her grandchildren grow.

In 2015, I turned 60 and I realized with the quality of life I had, I might as well be dead. So I decided to stop taking the prescriptions I had been over-prescribed, and get out of bed or die trying. Against my doctor's recommendation, and without any intervention or treatment, over a period 4 months of difficult withdrawal, I was able to successfully rid myself of my dependence on legally prescribed drugs.

Now, although I am functioning better, coping with constant pain is a never-ending struggle. I can't walk very far, stand too long, or sit very long. Nights are the worse because my pain intensifies when I lay down. The only relief I get is when I'm submerged in water. I've spent so much time in our pool, it's a wonder I haven't grown gills.

My vision has deteriorated to where I have lost most of the vision in my left eye and considerable in my right. Now, damage to my optic nerve resulting from worsening glaucoma, has my ophthalmologist worried I'm going totally blind.

Pain is the first thing I think about when I wake up, the last before I go to sleep, and too many times in between to count. Being so visually impaired is a challenge I wouldn't wish on anyone.

My personal experience with prescribed Opioid Medication proves taking them requires increasing dosages that can be a slippery slope that often leads to dependence, overdose and even death.

According to a study from the National Center for Health Statistics, part of the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, deaths involving opioids, in 2016 reached, 42,249. A staggering average of 115 per day.

Opioid overdoses recently overtook vehicular accidents and shooting deaths as the most common cause of accidental death in the United States. Ten states enacted medical cannabis laws between 1999 and 2010. Research from those states have shown that states allowing medical marijuana had a 24.8% lower annual opioid overdose mortality rate compared to states outlawing cannabis.

The [National Institute on Drug Abuse](#), as well as numerous other in-depth studies on medical cannabis has reported that like opioids, marijuana has been shown to be effective in treating chronic pain as well as other conditions such as Anxiety, Arthritis, Cancer, Crohn's Disease, Epilepsy, Fibromyalgia, Glaucoma, HIV/AIDS, Migrains, Multiple Sclerosis, Neuropathy and PTSD.

Furthermore, studies have shown that marijuana used as an alternative pain treatment would help mitigate the major public health opioid crisis because it is safer and less addictive, you can't overdose from it, nor has anyone in the US died from using it.

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Medical marijuana is an affordable, safe and effective alternative for many expensive, ineffective and highly addictive prescription opioid medicines currently being prescribed.

Legalization of the medical use of marijuana would have a significant positive affect on the Opioid Crisis. It would be a giant missed opportunity if data on safety, efficacy, and outcomes from medical cannabis use wasn't considered when deciding whether marijuana should be legalized.

Personally, I've exhausted every pain management option, including massive doses of prescribed opioids. After extensive research, I've determined that medical cannabis is the only option left for me.

I have not tried marijuana for my nerve pain or glaucoma. Primarily because it's illegal, but also because I can't stand the smell of it.

Like many people of my generation, I thought marijuana was an evil drug that was making our kids stupid, was highly addictive, a gateway drug, and often led to overdose and death.

A surprising number of people still cling to that anti-factual, long-exploited, preconceived ideology that marijuana use is bad. My research has taught me otherwise.

I have learned it is nearly impossible to overdose on cannabis. To do so, you would have to consume 40,000 times the dose required to get "high", all at once.

I was relieved to find out the [neuroscience department](#) at the University of Louisville has proven that marijuana use does not, in fact, kill brain cells.

Unlike opioids, marijuana has little addiction potential, and no deaths from marijuana overdose has been reported in the United States.

A study published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* found that smoking cannabis does not cause significant damage to the lungs. Tobacco, however, can be extremely damaging. And, marijuana can be consumed in edible forms, therefore alleviating the unpleasant stink.

Nearly all of us know someone who has been killed by cigarettes or alcohol, yet they remain legal. A recent study even found the majority of people believe consuming sugar is worse for you than smoking marijuana.

Opioids are the 3real "gateway" drugs to be worried about. Since the war on opioids has led to stiff regulations on the quantity and duration of prescriptions, many legitimate pain sufferers have turned to street drugs out of desperation after being cutoff by their doctor's.

People who live relatively pain free just don't get what's it's like to constantly have pain. Imagine if you had a toothache that went on for sixteen years.

The best solution for pain sufferers, and a real solution to the opioid crisis, would be the legalization of marijuana.

I know firsthand the downside of taking prescription opioids and just how detrimental they can be to one's health and well being. Medical marijuana couldn't possibly be anywhere near as bad.

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I've asked many doctors how they feel about medical cannabis. They agree it would very likely be effective for my pain management. Healthcare practitioners who are charged with ensuring patient comfort, have a vested interest in providing viable alternatives to Prescription Opioid Medications as part of an integrated approach to pain management. They are left wondering how different their job would be if marijuana was legal.

I'm left wondering how different my life might have been over the past sixteen years, or how different my future might be, with the benefit of legal medical cannabis.

I didn't reveal this much of my personal health history looking for sympathy. I'm hoping you will consider what I've said when deciding how to vote on this proposed referendum. Quite simply, I need something done before I either die or go blind. I desperately want to live productive life as and see my grandchildren grow up.

Anyone who had to walk with MY legs on MY feet, hold anything with MY hands, or see out of MY eyes, would understand my urgency in getting medical marijuana legalized in Wisconsin,

Most importantly, I don't think my government should force me into becoming a criminal in order to obtain a medication with the potential to help me.

I must emphasize one final point. No one I know who's advocating for Brown County to add this non-binding advisory referendum is doing so because they are potheads who walk around in a purple haze and just want to bring more drugs into our community.

Make no mistake, marijuana is already here and being used illegally by thousands of people in Brown County. I'm told it can be bought at bars near the university, on street corners on Main Street or University Avenue, and during the summer, at Disc golf courses.

Drugs are pervasive in our society. Just open your medicine cabinet. Those drugs can be purchased on every other street corner at Walgreens, CVS, Shopko and Walmart. If those pharmacies only sold drugs with zero risk, their shelves would be empty!

Thank you for listening and I sincerely hope you consider my statement in your decision about whether this issue should move forward.

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The Public*

PAIN TREATMENTS TRIED

Laura Kiefert

SUPPLEMENTS

St. John's Wart

Vitamin D

Vitamin B-12

CBD Oil

ALTERNATIVES

Chiropractic

Acupuncture

Bio-Feedback

Electric Stim

Massage

Spinal Injections

Relaxation

NON-NARCOTIC

Lidocaine

Neurontin

Tegretol

Trileptal

Topamax

Elavil

Effexor

Celebrex

Lexapro

UAmitril

Norpramin

Wellbutrin

Maprotiline

Lorazepam

Mirapex

Lyrica

Cymbalta

OPIOIDS

Ultram

Lortab

Vicodin

Percocette

Tramadol

OxyContin

Dilaudid

Demerol

Oxycodone

Fentanyl

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REUTERS

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HEALTH NEWS

Legal marijuana tied to drop in opioid prescriptions

Lisa Rapaport

5 MIN READ



(Reuters Health) - Opioid prescriptions may decline when states legalize marijuana, two U.S. studies suggest.

FILE PHOTO: Marijuana is seen for sale at Harborside, one of California's largest and oldest dispensaries of medical marijuana, on the first day of legalized recreational marijuana sales in Oakland, California, U.S., January 1, 2018. REUTERS/Elijah Newel/Photo File Photo

One study focused on older adults with Medicare drug benefits. In each state, in an average year, doctors prescribed 23 million daily doses of opioids. Compared to states where

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Illinois was banned. States where medical marijuana was legal averaged 3.7 million fewer opioid doses annually, while states that permitted only home cultivation of marijuana saw 1.8 million fewer doses.

A separate study of adults insured by Medicaid, the U.S. health program for the poor, found medical marijuana laws associated with an almost 6 percent decline in opioid prescriptions.

"These findings suggest that cannabis may play a role in fighting the opioid crisis by reducing some patients' need for opioids," said Dr. Kevin Hill, coauthor of an accompanying editorial and director of addiction psychiatry at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston.

"The evidence thus far does not suggest that cannabis should be a first-line or even a second-line treatment for pain," Hill said by email. "But if a patient has tried to treat pain using multiple modalities without success, a trial of medical cannabis may make sense."

Each day, 90 Americans die from opioid overdoses, Hill notes in JAMA Internal Medicine, where both studies were published. While some deaths may be due to illegal narcotics like heroin, others are caused by opioid medications like oxycodone, fentanyl, hydrocodone, morphine, and methadone.

In the Medicare study, conducted from 2010 to 2015, researchers didn't find cannabis legalization associated with a meaningful reduction in prescriptions for fentanyl or oxycodone.

But annual hydrocodone use declined, on average, by 2.3 million daily doses in states with legal marijuana dispensaries and by 1.3 million daily doses in states that legalized only home growth of marijuana.

Legal dispensaries were also associated with an average of 361,000 fewer daily doses of morphine prescriptions each year, the study found.

"Patients and physicians seem to be responding to the introduction of medical cannabis as if it were medicine - in many ways as they would with the introduction of a new FDA-approved medical treatment," said study coauthor W. David Bradford, a researcher at the University of Georgia in Athens.

"Of course, there may be diversion from medical cannabis sources to recreational purposes - our research can't really speak to that," Bradford said by email.

The study of Medicaid patients examined the association between opioid prescribing rates and state marijuana laws implemented from 2011 to 2016.

In states without medical marijuana laws, the annual opioid prescription rate was about 670 for every 1,000 people enrolled in Medicaid, the study found.

When states implemented medical marijuana laws, however, the annual opioid prescription rate declined by almost 6 percent, or approximately 39 fewer prescriptions for every 1,000

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people enrolled in Medicaid each year.

Neither study proves that legalizing marijuana causes a decline in opioid prescriptions. Also, it's unclear from the studies exactly how much marijuana use was for medical versus recreational purposes or how much people might have relied on other non-opioid painkillers.

"Marijuana is one of the potential, non-opioid alternatives that can relieve pain at a relatively lower risk of addiction and virtually no risk of overdose," said Hefei Wen, co-author of the Medicaid study and a researcher at the University of Kentucky College of Public Health in Lexington.

"The potential of these marijuana (legalization) policies to reduce the use and consequences of addictive opioids deserves consideration especially in states that have been hit hard by the opioid epidemic," Wen said by email.

SOURCE: bit.ly/2uIwdEI, bit.ly/2uGnCT1 and bit.ly/2uLErMo JAMA Internal Medicine, online April 2, 2018.

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**Scott Johnstone (<https://news.lift.co/Author/Scottjohnstone/>)**

Hailing from Victoria, BC, Scott Johnstone is a cannabis activist, anti-prohibition advocate, and a writing contributor for cannabis-related publications. Through his involvement with the cannabis legalization movement over the past sixteen years he has delighted in seeing Canada shift from fear-based politics toward science-based politics.

[\(https://news.lift.co/author/scottjohnstone/\)](https://news.lift.co/author/scottjohnstone/)

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Website

Post Comment

1 comment



Brandon Strong (<https://www.youtube.com/thedailydopeshow>) 8 months ago
Reply (<https://news.lift.co/five-years-effects-legalization-colorado-washington-state/?replytocom=23304#respond>)

"But reports emphasize that while more drivers who had been involved in insurance claims in Washington and Colorado admitted to consuming cannabis before operating their vehicle, that may not reflect actual changes in usage, due to extremely limited data prior to legalization."

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Marijuana legalization could inject over \$130 billion into US tax coffers by 2025 — if the Trump administration stays hands-off

Jeremy Berke Jan. 13, 2018, 11:00 AM



Cannabis will create almost \$132 billion in federal tax revenue by 2025 — if the federal government legalizes it. Thomson Reuters

- **A report from New Frontier Data estimates the cannabis industry could generate \$131.8 billion in federal tax revenue and add 1.1 million jobs by 2025 if it's legalized for adult use in all 50 states.**
- **If the US were to legalize cannabis federally today, it would add 782,000 jobs to the economy, according to the study.**
- **The country could be leaving billions in tax revenue on the table if**

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it keeps the status quo patchwork of state laws , rather than coherent federal regulations.

Marijuana legalization could create \$132 billion in federal tax revenue and inject over a million jobs into the US labor market by 2025 if it becomes legal nationwide, a new study says.

The study, from cannabis industry analytics firm New Frontier Data, seeks to estimate the total economic impact of the nascent industry. Cannabis is legal in eight states, including California, which legalized recreational sales on January 1. Vermont is likely to join that list once Gov. Phil Scott signs a bill legalizing the possession of up to one ounce of marijuana into law.

The study assumes the tax revenue, which will add \$131.8 billion cumulatively to the US Treasury by 2025, will come from a 15% retail tax, payroll tax deductions, and a 35% business tax. Sales tax alone on cannabis would add \$51.7 billion to US coffers between 2017 and 2025.

While commercial cannabis markets are up-and-running in eight states, the federal government can't collect any taxes on the industry since cannabis is considered an illegal, Schedule I drug. That means cannabis would be an entirely new revenue source for the US government.

"If cannabis businesses were legalized tomorrow and taxed as normal businesses with a standard 35 percent tax rate, cannabis businesses would infuse the U.S. economy with an additional \$12.6 billion this year," New Frontier's CEO, Giadha Aguirre De Carcer said in a statement.

A tax windfall? Thomson Reuters

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New Frontier's estimates rely on a theoretical model where cannabis is legalized in all 50 states, and Congress creates a structure for the federal government to collect taxes on the industry. The difference between that model and the current patchwork of state laws is \$76.8 billion in revenue.

In other words, the federal government will leave over \$75 billion on the table, if it doesn't legalize the drug, according to New Frontier. That echoes a report from ArcView Market Research, which predicts the entire legal cannabis market to reach \$24.5 billion in sales— representing a 21% growth rate — by 2021.

If legalized in all 50 states, cannabis would immediately add 782,000 jobs to the US economy. That number would increase to 1.1 million by 2025. To put that number in perspective, the Bureau of Labor Statistics projects the total US labor force to increase by 10.5 million people in the next decade.

But Attorney General Jeff Sessions, a noted cannabis opponent, rescinded Obama-era rules directing the Justice Department to keep its hands off of state-legal cannabis businesses earlier this month, which may put the industry's future in jeopardy. A growing chorus of lawmakers on both sides of the aisle blasted Sessions' move, though the cannabis industry was unperturbed.

Public opinion seems to be on the cannabis industry's side. Some 58% of voters said in a Quinnipiac poll on Thursday that marijuana should be legal, and 70% of voters oppose enforcing federal laws in states that have made marijuana legal.

SEE ALSO: Jeff Sessions has fired the first shot in his long-awaited crackdown on marijuana — and some investors see it as an opportunity »

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Five years in: The effects of legalization in Colorado and Washington state

A comparison of expectations versus results

By [Scott Johnstone \(https://news.lift.co/author/scottjohnstone/\)](https://news.lift.co/author/scottjohnstone/) November 13, 2017

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✉ ([mailto:?subject=This might interest you&body=Visit this link: https://news.lift.co/five-years-effects-legalization-colorado-washington-state%2F](mailto:?subject=This%20might%20interest%20you&body=Visit%20this%20link%3A%20https%3A%2F%2Fnews.lift.co%2Ffive-years-effects-legalization-colorado-washington-state%2F))

In 2012, the states of Colorado and Washington became the first in the US to legalize cannabis for recreational use. Critics feared it would attract criminal elements, and that it would lead to increases in impaired driving incidents and youths being exposed to the drug, while advocates hoped it would lead to an economic boom, and an end to the criminalization of cannabis users.

This November marks the five year anniversary of legalization in both states. In that time a number of studies, surveys, and statistics have been published that provide a view into the range of effects that have been observed since the new regime was implemented. Here are some highlights:



Criminal elements

Prediction: Criminal elements would be attracted.

Observation: Mixed results, but overall that myth was busted.

A report published in 2016 found that cannabis-related crime had increased in Washington state post legalization. The report was based on data from both Spokane Valley and Seattle police departments, and it showed a rise in unlicensed distribution and possession of illegal cannabis following legalization, most of which was destined for states where prohibition was still in force.

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However those statistics represent only a small portion, geographically speaking, of just one state. On the whole, crime statistics for Washington state reached a 40-year low in 2014, with violent crime down 10 percent and a 13 percent drop in the state's murder rate. Colorado also saw decreases in overall crime rates, violent crimes, and property crimes.

Impaired driving

Prediction: Accidents and impaired driving incidents would increase.

Observation: Confirmed (mostly).

A study produced by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, which has received criticisms from legalization advocates, found that in 2014 (the year in which the first legal recreational cannabis shops actually opened for business) overall claims for traffic incidents rose by 14 percent in Colorado, and 4.6 percent in Washington.

While a certain amount of annual increase was expected regardless of legalization, even after researchers accounted for controls including rates of increase in nearby states where cannabis remained illegal, a rise of 2.7 percent was attributed to the legalization of cannabis.

But reports emphasize that while more drivers who had been involved in insurance claims in Washington and Colorado admitted to consuming cannabis before operating their vehicle, that may not reflect actual changes in usage, due to extremely limited data prior to legalization.

Nevertheless a correlation has been observed, showing a disproportionate increase in traffic-related insurance claims in states where cannabis has been legalized.

Youth exposure

Prediction: Minors would start using cannabis (more than they were already).

Observation: Myth busted.

Earlier this year a think tank working for Washington's state legislature produced a report showing overall decreases in youth cannabis usage rates.

The report was based on survey data from the state's Department of Health, which polled for usage among students in grades six, eight, ten, and twelve. The results of the survey showed decreased usage by students in all four grade levels. For example, students in the tenth grade responded at a 17 percent usage rate in 2016, compared to rates of 18 percent in 2006, and 20 percent in 2010.

Similar decreases in teen usage were observed in Colorado, with 21.2 percent reporting usage in 2015, down from 22 percent in 2011.

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Big business

Prediction: The new legal market would lead to an economic boom.

Observation: Confirmed.

Both Colorado and Washington have experienced tremendous growth in the cannabis business ecosystem in the years since each state increased access from limited medical marijuana programs to fully legalized recreational markets.

Even setting aside financial gains by the myriad private businesses now operating in each state, and focusing instead on state revenues such as excise taxes and licensing fees, the case is clear. In 2014, Colorado received over \$76 million in revenues, \$35 million of which went directly toward funding the state's education system. In 2015, total tax revenues from cannabis increased to over \$135 million.

In Washington, \$83 million was received in excise taxes alone during the first year of recreational cannabis shops operating in the state. In 2016 the state's tax obligation was projected at \$185 million, with the expectation of 2017 reaching over \$230 million.

The lion's share of tax revenues in Washington are slated for public health programs including Medicaid, substance abuse prevention, and community health centers.

An end to criminalization

Prediction: Arrests would stop, amnesty would be offered to those already incarcerated

Result: Myth busted (mostly).

While overall crime rates dropped in both states, significant increases in cannabis-related arrests were reported in a number of jurisdictions within each state.

Conversely, a noteworthy observation comes from Stanford University, whose Open Policing Project reported that based on data from over 130 million roadside traffic stops throughout the US, the rates of traffic stops leading to drug searches dropped dramatically in both Colorado and Washington following legalization.

While those traffic stops that did lead to drug searches still show a disproportionate rate of enforcement towards drivers depending on race, the stop-and-search rate decreased 34 percent between 2011 and 2015 for black drivers, and 25 percent for hispanic drivers.

But for the thousands of cannabis users who have already incurred criminal records, or are still serving prison sentences for cannabis offenses committed prior to legalization, both Colorado and Washington fall short of the examples set by their more recently legalized counterparts, Oregon and California.

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The Public*

California's cannabis legislation includes a system that provides for existing cannabis offenses to be reclassified and/or expunged from criminal records, and for those currently serving sentences to have the opportunity for re-sentencing under the new regime.

Meanwhile in Oregon, a resolution passed in 2015 allows anyone with a cannabis-related conviction to apply for their record to be expunged if the act for which they were convicted is no longer classified as a crime.

Unfortunately for Washington and Colorado residents, the same can't yet be said for their states.

Instead of moving toward an atmosphere of non-criminality, 2015 saw the ratification of Washington state's Senate Bill 5052, which allows minors under the age of 21 to be charged with a felony for cannabis possession, carrying sentences up to five years in prison.

Unexpected results

Here are a few interesting tidbits and data points that didn't fit into the above categories.

Harm reduction: A study published in this month's issue of the American Journal of Public Health found that 2014 saw a 6.5 percent reduction in deaths resulting from opioid abuse in Colorado, indicating a reversal of the previous 14-year increasing trend.

Workplace safety: Explosions occurred seventeen times at THC extraction labs in Washington state during 2014.

Unanticipated growth: A 2015 report from Matt Ferner of the Huffington Post found that legal cannabis had become the fastest-growing industry in the US, with the national market expanding from \$1.5 billion in 2013 to \$2.7 billion in 2014.

Featured image by [Anupam ts \(https://www.flickr.com/photos/anupamsrivastava/9618170856/\)](https://www.flickr.com/photos/anupamsrivastava/9618170856/).



In this article

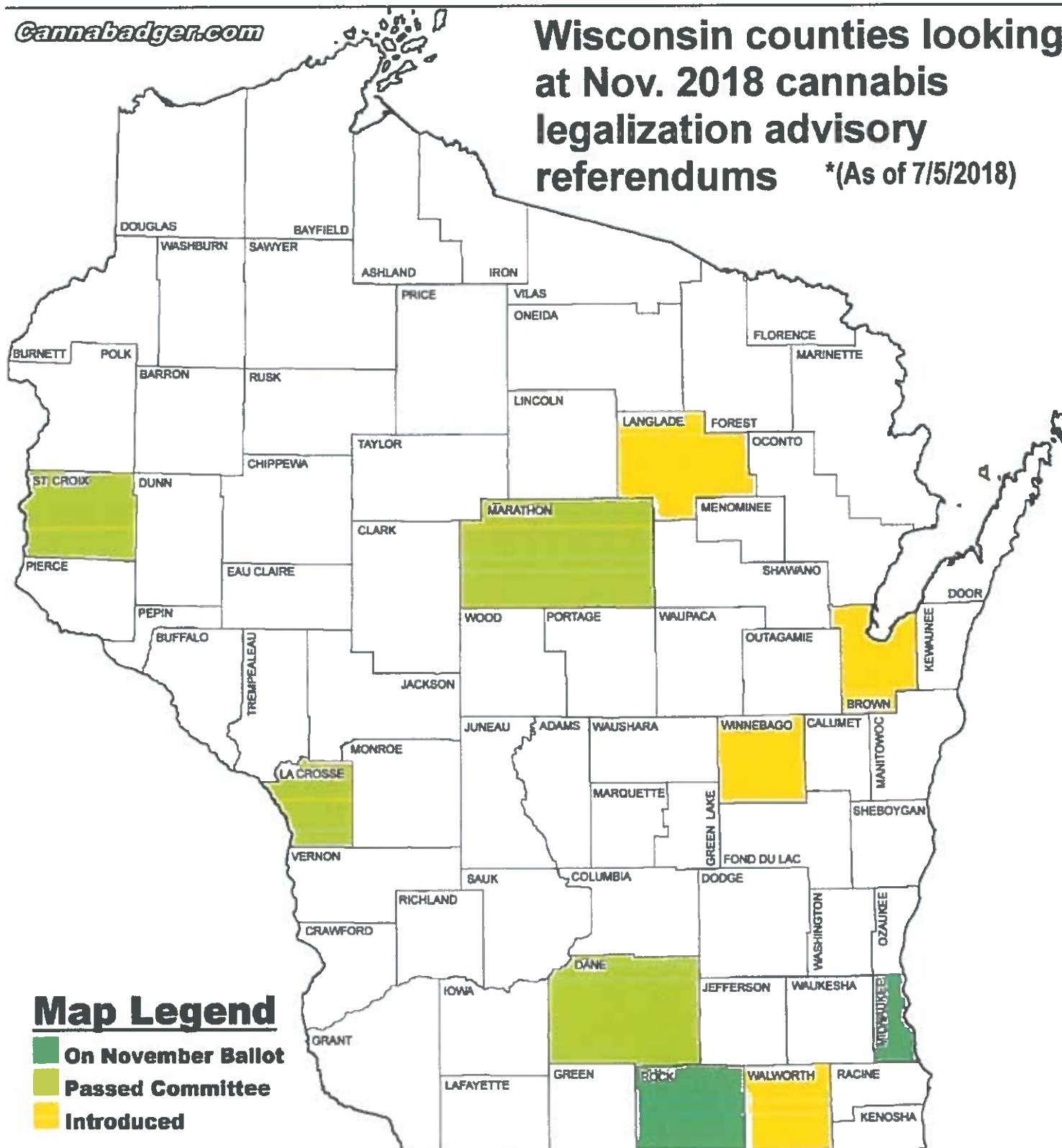
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Cannabadger.com

Wisconsin counties looking at Nov. 2018 cannabis legalization advisory referendums ^{*(As of 7/5/2018)}



TO: DAN PROCESS

FROM JERRY POLUS

DATE: JUNE 14, 2018

RE: GIFT CARD POLICY

EACH VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE IN WISCONSIN IS REQUIRED BY STATUTE TO HAVE AN EMERGENCY FUND TO HELP NEEDY VETERANS/DEPENDENTS WHO ARE EXPERIENCING A TEMPORARY HARDSHIP. IN OUR COUNTY THE BUDGETED AMOUNT IS SHOWN AS A LINE ITEM "SUPPORTIVE SERVICES." (SHOULD BE CHANGED TO "EMERGENCY FUND.")

OUR OFFICE HAS A WRITTEN POLICY TO PROPERLY MANAGE THIS PROGRAM WITH CONTROLS AND CHECKS AND BALANCES. WE HAVE WORKED HARD TO FOLLOW THIS POLICY AND IMPROVEMENT HAS OCCURRED.

THE AVERAGE AMOUNT OF AID PROVIDED TO A VETERAN/DEPENDENT WITH GIFT CARDS (EITHER K-KWIK TRIP OR WALMART IS \$50-\$100). ANY APPLICANT REQUESTING AID IS REQUIRED TO COMPLETE AN APPLICATION AND HAVE A BRIEF INTERVIEW WITH A STAFF MEMBER. IF THE STAFF MEMBER BELIEVES AID WOULD ASSIST THE VETERAN/DEPENDENT, THEY WILL REVIEW WITH ANOTHER STAFF MEMBER TO SEEK CONCURRENCE. THE VETERAN/DEPENDENT IS THEN PROVIDED THE GIFT CARDS THAT DAY OR THE NEXT DAY. THE NUMBER OF THE CARD AND TYPE IS THEN NOTED AT THE BOTTOM OF THE APPLICATION AND THEN GIVEN TO ANOTHER STAFF MEMBER TO MAINTAIN ON FILE AND IS NOTED IN THE VETERANS DATA BASE RECORD. THERE ARE SOME EXCEPTIONS TO THE TWICE A YEAR RULE FOR ADDITIONAL AID BASED UPON THE VETERAN'S STATUS (HOMELESS VETERANS ARE AN EXAMPLE).

THE POLICY WITH CLEAR GUIDELINES HAS ASSISTED OUR STAFF IN MANAGING THIS PROGRAM PROPERLY.

Process, Danny J.

From: Polus, Jerry E.
Sent: Tuesday, June 19, 2018 9:14 AM
To: Process, Danny J.
Subject: RE: Audit Report Response

DAN:

IT IS OUR INTENT TO HAVE AN ADENDUM TO OUR EMERGENCY FUND POLICY/PROCEDURE TO STRENGTHEN THE CONTROLS AND ACCOUNTABILITY. WE WILL HAVE 2 STAFF MEMBERS DO A QUARTERLY MINI AUDIT OF THIS PROGRAM WITH THE BELOW INFORMATION WHICH WE WILL FORWARD TO YOU :

DATE -- NAME OF APPLICANT REQUESTING AID--- AMOUNT OF AID PROVIDED ----TYPE OF GIFT CARD(S)AND NUMBER OF CARD(S). THIS WILL BE DONE UPON A REVIEW OF EACH APPLICATION TO ENSURE THE INFORMATION IS ACCURATE AND CORRECT. THE 2 STAFF MEMBERS DOING THE MINI AUDIT WILL NOT BE THE SAME AS THOSE APPROVING AND PROVIDING THE GIFT CARDS.

JERRY POLUS
BROWN CVSO
920-448-4451

From: Process, Danny J.
Sent: Friday, June 15, 2018 2:17 PM
To: Polus, Jerry E.
Cc: Franklin, Matthew T.
Subject: Audit Report Response

Jerry,

I have read your response to the Veterans' Emergency Assistance Gift Cards Report and have the following request. Can you please include a statement indicating the steps that are being considered/taken to ensure compliance with the established policy? The audit report acknowledges that a policy was in place, however, many of the findings were the result of not complying with this policy. Therefore, what steps are being considered/taken to ensure compliance? Examples would include; periodic verification of inventory records to ensure that controls over gift card inventory is being maintained, periodic verification of supporting documentation to ensure that assistance is being properly documented, acknowledgement forms are being signed and retained, gift card recipients are documented and supported and eligibility requirements are being followed. It is also important to document any reviews or verifications performed to support this control. If you have any questions regarding this request, please let me know.

Thanks,

Dan Process
Internal Auditor
Brown County Board of Supervisors
Phone: 920.448.4014
Fax: 920.448.6221
Process_dj@co.brown.wi.us

PETITION SUPPORTING AN INDEPENDENT CITIZEN REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE

I support the formation of an independent citizen redistricting panel to ensure the integrity of the redistricting process, to reduce the possibility or claims regarding conflict of interest or politization and/or protection of incumbency.

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(see back side)
 * page - more signatures

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